

REMARKS

Claim 1, the single claim in the application, is amended to more positively define the invention and more clearly distinguish the invention over the art cited.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by King (USPN 6,309,248) is traversed.

In our invention, there is disclosed in Fig. 10, and described on Pages 18 and 19 of the application the structure of the latch plate 182 which slides to engage the latch lever. Referring to Fig. 16 and Page 20, lines 17-19 of the application, reset button 60 supports a “latch lever 222 which ends in a latch pin 224... where...the diameter of the latch pin 224 is greater than the diameter of the latch lever 222 resulting in a latch shoulder 226”. When the latch plate slides to engage the latch pin, it is pulled up by the shoulder of the latch pin to reestablish continuity in the phase and neutral conductive paths.

The applied reference, USPN 6,309,248, neither discloses nor even suggests the structure of a plate which slides, a SLIDING PLATE, to engage and latch onto the reset latch lever to reestablish electrical continuity.

Amended claim 1 now clearly avoids the cited reference by reciting the structure of the “sliding plate”. More specifically, claim 1 now includes the structure of “...a manually operated reset latch lever in combination with a slidable latch plate adapted to engage the reset latch lever to reestablish electrical continuity in the phase and neutral conductive paths”.

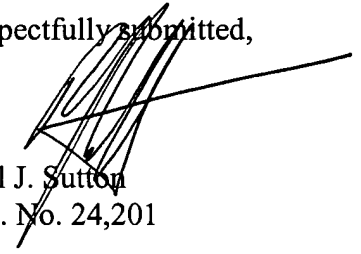
It is out understanding that Claim 1, the single claim now present in the application, clearly avoids the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1185 to Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

In the event that an extension of time is required to make this Amendment timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is

required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 12-1185 of Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



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